

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method in a server for automatically downloading and installing software to a client computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction from a client computer ~~identifying to install~~ an item of software to install on the client computer system, wherein the receiving an instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install includes a step of receiving the instruction via one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, or a wide area network;

collecting data about the client computer system to form collected data;

analyzing the collected data to determine a proper version and configuration options;

receiving the analysis of the collected data, wherein the analysis specifies the proper version and the configuration options;

based on the collected data and the analysis, determining whether the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system in response to receiving the instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install on the client computer system;

if the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system, based on the collected data and the analysis, downloading [[a]] the proper version of the identified item of software from [[a]] the server;

installing the proper version; [[and]]

based on the collected data and the analysis, setting configuration options associated with the proper version; and

returning a confirmatory message.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the additional step of:

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed on the computer system, then ending execution of the method.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A method for automatically installing software on at least one computer system connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction from a user input at a client computer to install an item of software on the at least one computer system;

determining whether the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer system;

if the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer system, directing at least one software installation agent executing on the at least one computer system to download, install, and configure the item of software on the at least one computer system; and

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed on the computer system, then ending execution of the method.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the method is executed on a server.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the additional step of: receiving at least one confirmatory message from the at least one software installation agent.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the receiving step includes a step of receiving the instruction from a remote computing device via the network.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the receiving step includes a step of receiving the instruction through a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) interface.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the network includes at least one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, and a wide area network.

13. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the additional step of:
based on the user input, choosing the at least one computer system from a stored inventory of computer systems.
14. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the additional step of:
transmitting the at least one software installation agent to the at least one computer system to be installed by a user.
15. (Currently amended) A computer program product, in a computer-readable medium, for automatically downloading and installing software from a server to a client computer system, comprising instructions for:
receiving an instruction from a client computer identifying to install an item of software to install on the client computer system, wherein the instructions for receiving an instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install include instructions for receiving the instruction via one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, or a wide area network;
collecting data about the client computer system to form collected data;
analyzing the collected data to determine a proper version and configuration options;
receiving an analysis of the collected data, wherein the analysis specifies the proper version and the configuration options;
based on the collected data and the analysis, determining whether the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system in response to receiving the instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install on the client computer system;
if the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system, based on the collected data and the analysis, downloading [[a]] the proper version of the identified item of software from [[a]] the server;
installing the proper version; [[and]]

based on the collected data and the analysis, setting configuration options associated with the proper version;

returning a confirmatory message.

16. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising additional instructions for:

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed by the computer system, then ending execution of the method.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A computer program product, in a computer-readable medium, for automatically installing software on at least one computer system connected to a network, comprising instructions for:

receiving an instruction from a user input at a client computer to install an item of software on the at least one computer system;

determining whether the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer system,

if the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer system, directing at least one software installation agent executing on the at least one computer system to download, install, and configure the item of software on the at least one computer system; and

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed on the computer system, then ending execution of the method.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the computer program product is executed on a server.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising additional instructions for:

receiving at least one confirmatory message from the at least one software installation agent.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions for receiving include instructions for receiving the instruction from a remote computing device via the network.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the instructions for receiving include instructions for receiving the instruction through a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) interface.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the network includes at least one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, and a wide area network.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising additional instructions for:

based on the user input, choosing the at least one computer system from a stored inventory of computer systems.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising additional instructions for:

transmitting the at least one software installation agent to the at least one computer system to be installed by a user.

29. (Currently amended) A system for automatically installing software, comprising:
a network;
a server connected to the network;
a client computer connected to the network; and
at least one target computer connected to the network, wherein each of the at least one target computer executes a software installation agent, wherein the client computer

submits a request to the server, responsive to receiving the request the server schedules an appropriate time to install an item of software, at the appropriate time the server notifies the software installation agent on each of the at least one target computer that the item of software is to be installed, the software agent on each of the at least one target computer collects data about the at least one target computer to make a determination if and how the item of software can be installed and configured, based on the determination the software installation agent on each of the at least one target computer downloads, installs, ~~[[and]]~~ configures the item of software on each of the at least one target computer, and if the item of software can not be installed and configured on one of the at least one target computer, ending the installation of the software on the one of the at least one target computer.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the network includes at least one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, and a wide area network.

31. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the determination is made by the server.

32. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the determination is made by the software installation agent.

33. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the client computer submits the request using a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

34. (Currently amended) An apparatus in a server for automatically downloading and installing software to a client computer system, comprising means for:

receiving an instruction from a client computer identifying to install an item of software to install on the client computer system, wherein the receiving an instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install includes a step of receiving the instruction via one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, or a wide area network;

collecting data about the client computer system to form collected data;
analyzing the collected data to determine a proper version and configuration options;

receiving the analysis of the collected data, wherein the analysis specifies the proper version and the configuration options;

based on the collected data and the analysis, determining whether the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system in response to receiving the instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install on the client computer system;

if the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system, based on the collected data and the analysis, downloading [[a]] the proper version of the identified item of software from [[a]] the server;

installing the proper version; [[and]]

based on the collected data and the analysis, setting configuration options associated with the proper version; and

returning a confirmatory message.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising additional means for:

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed by the computer system, then ending an operation of the apparatus.

36-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) An apparatus for automatically installing software on at least one computer system connected to a network, comprising means for:

receiving an instruction from a user input at a client computer to install an item of software on the at least one computer system;

determining whether the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer system;

if the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer system, directing at least one software installation agent executing on the at least one computer system to download, install, and configure the item of software on the at least one computer system; and

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed by the computer system, then ending execution of the method.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the apparatus includes a server.
42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising additional means for: receiving at least one confirmatory message from the at least one software installation agent.
43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the instruction is received from a remote computing device via the network.
44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the instruction is received through a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) interface.
45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the network includes at least one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, and a wide area network.
46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the user input chooses the at least one computer system from a stored inventory of computer systems.
47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising additional means for: transmitting the at least one software installation agent to the at least one computer system to be installed by a user.

48. (Currently amended) A data processing system comprising:
- a bus system;
 - a communication unit connected to the bus system;
 - a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
 - a processing unit, wherein the processing unit includes at least one processor, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of:
 - receiving an instruction from a client computer identifying to install an item of software to install on the client computer system, wherein the receiving an instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install includes a step of receiving the instruction via one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, or a wide area network;
 - collecting data about the client computer system to form collected data;
 - analyzing the collected data to determine a proper version and configuration options;
 - receiving the analysis of the collected data, wherein the analysis specifies the proper version and the configuration options;
 - based on the collected data and the analysis, determining whether the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system in response to receiving the instruction from the client computer identifying the item of software to install on the client computer system;
 - if the identified item of software can be installed on and executed by the client computer system, based on the collected data and the analysis, downloading [[a]] the proper version of the identified item of software from [[a]] the server;
 - installing the proper version; [[and]]
 - based on the collected data and the analysis, setting configuration options associated with the proper version; and
 - returning a confirmatory message.

49. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 48, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the additional acts of:

if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed by the computer system, then ending execution of the set of instructions

50-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communication unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory a set of instructions;
and
a processing unit, wherein the processing unit includes at least one processor,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of:
receiving an instruction from a user input at a client computer to install an
item of software on the at least one data processing system;
determining whether the item of software can be installed on and executed
by the computer system;
if the item of software can be installed on and executed by the computer
system, directing at least one software installation agent executing on the at least
one data processing system to download, install, and configure the item of
software on the at least one data processing system; and
if the item of software cannot be installed on and executed by the
computer system, then ending execution of the method.

55. (Original) The data processing system of claim 54, wherein the data processing system is a server.

56. (Original) The data processing system of claim 54, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of:
receiving at least one confirmatory message from the at least one software installation agent.

57. (Original) The data processing system of claim 54, wherein the instruction is received from a remote computing device via the network.

58. (Original) The data processing system of claim 57, wherein the instruction is received through a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) interface.

59. (Original) The data processing system of claim 54, wherein the network includes at least one of a wireless network, a local area network, an Internet, an intranet, and a wide area network.

60. (Original) The data processing system of claim 54, wherein the user input chooses the at least one data processing system from a stored inventory of data processing systems.

61. (Original) The data processing system of claim 54, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of:
transmitting the at least one software installation agent to the at least one data processing system to be installed by a user.